

## **ORDINANCE**

**WHEREAS**, The U.S. Census Bureau is the Nation's leading provider of data collection on race and ethnicity, although, it does not currently include all of the Nation's identified groups; and

**WHEREAS**, The next U.S. Census and future federal government forms starting in 2029 will have a new option to select "Middle Eastern or North African" (MENA), also referred to as Arab Americans, when asked to identify race and/or ethnicity; and

**WHEREAS**, The exclusion of MENA Americans from the U.S. Census Bureau has led to the inability for MENA Americans to obtain affirmative action resources provided to other historically disadvantaged groups; and

**WHEREAS**, The American Community Survey (ACS) revealed that MENA Americans have suffered pervasive society-wide prejudice and discrimination or practices, and that over time those conditions have resulted in economic deprivation; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Chicago is home to the fourth largest urban concentration of MENA American population in the United States, and according to the Illinois Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, the Arab population in Chicago as of 2020 was around 150,000; and

**WHEREAS**, Recently, the State has amended the Uniform Racial Classification Act and the Data Governance and Organization to Support Equity and Racial Justice Act to require State agencies that compile or report data using racial or ethnic classifications to include a classification for "Middle Eastern or North African"; and

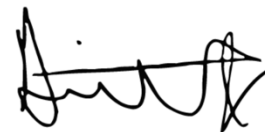
**WHEREAS**, The City of Chicago should join the U.S. Census Bureau, the federal government, and State agencies in recognizing MENA Americans as an identified group on government forms; now, therefore

### **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO:**

**SECTION 1.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except as otherwise required by State or federal law or regulation, whenever a City department, agency, or office compiles or reports statistical data using racial or ethnic classifications, as required or permitted under applicable law, such department, agency, or office shall include a classification for people who are Middle Eastern or North African.

**SECTION 2.** The requirements and duties under this ordinance shall in all cases be subject to the provisions of Chapter 2-173 of the Municipal Code of Chicago.

**SECTION 3.** This ordinance shall take effect upon passage.



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GILBERT VILLEGAS  
Alderman, 36th Ward